

ALBACON

80

31st BRITISH EASTER S.F. CONVENTION

INTRODUCTION

This is the first Progress Report for Albacon 80, the 31st UK national Easter Science-Fiction Convention. Albacon will be held in Glasgow's Albany Hotel over 4-7 April 1980.

Albacon has come to Glasgow because at the 1979 Eastercon (*Easter and Convention* go together to make *Eastercon*) in Leeds the Members voted that the next UK Convention should be in Scotland. The Committee for Albacon have already run two popular regional Conventions, *Faircon 78* & *Faircon 79*.

The Eastercon is traditionally an event suitable for both a complete newcomer to the world of Fandom and for someone more used to the general proceedings. These include talks, films, panel discussions, quizzes, a banquet, and much else besides. There are also permanent events, such as the Art Show, Bookdealer's Room, Fan Room, and so on. The formal Programme starts at about ten o'clock each day, and finishes after midnight. The more informal aspects of the Convention tend to run right through the night!



31st Annual British Science Fiction Convention

Guest of Honour: Colin Kapp
Fan Guest of Honour: Jim Barker
Toastmaster: James White

Among the Committee of unpaid and overworked ~~fanatics~~ enthusiasts are: Bob Shaw (no, not the author), Hal Rollason, Steve Miller, Gerry Gillin, Ed Buckley, Kevin Clark, Bruce Saville, Dave Ellis, Phil Dawson, Jimmy Robertson, Bill Carlin, John Mooney, and many others. Also helping are Rog Peyton, Martin Hoare, and Malcolm Edwards (of the SF Foundation). Overseas Agents are- Mary Burns (USA), Urban Gunnarson (Scandinavia) and Nellie Pardoel (Europe).

If any of the foregoing is confusing you, then send an SAE to Gerry Gillin, 9 Dunnottar Street, Ruchazie, Glasgow G33 and we will send you a leaflet which may explain some things!

MEMBERSHIP

By September 3rd we had 245 Members. Membership application forms are either enclosed with this PR if you're not already signed up (or are merely Pre-Supporting) or are available from our Membership Secretary at the address above.

Three types of Membership exist: *FULL*, *SUPPORTING*, and *PRE-SUPPORTING*.

If you wish to attend Albacon you must be a *FULL* Member. You may, however, become a *SUPPORTING* Member and convert to *FULL* when you arrive. Should you do this, then your final Membership rate is pegged to the rate in operation when you became a *SUPPORTING* Member. *PRE-SUPPORTING* Members do not have the final rate fixed, but may reduce the sum required to attend by £1.00.

Current Membership rates are: *FULL*: £5.00

SUPPORTING: £2.00 (plus balance at door)

These rates WILL RISE AS OF DECEMBER 1st 1979.

PROGRAMME

We will run two distinct Programmes. The *Main Programme* takes place in the Main Convention Hall, and is to feature major talks, films, and panel discussions. An *Alternative Programme* will also take place during the Convention, and will have films, TV material (such as *Star Trek* on film, courtesy of the *STAR TREK Action Group (STAG)*) minority interest talks, and whatever else we find to put on.

A full list of our Film Programme will appear in PR2 in November.

Anyone willing to take part in the Programme is asked to contact Bob Shaw.

Albacon has grown by one day. Originally we had assumed that there would be little demand for any Programme on the Monday, but after various folk said they'd be about on the morning, and others stated that they'd be about in the afternoon and evening, the Committee has decided to extend the run of Albacon. This means that we will now start at mid-day on Friday 4th April (Good Friday) and finish on Monday 7th April (Easter Monday). In addition, The Friends of Kilgore Trout will move to the

Albany for one night, and are to hold their weekly meeting in the Hotel on Thursday 3rd April. Any southern fans who fancy seeing Glaswegian fans in their native habitat are invited to attend. They must, however, remember that the surest way to a Scotsman's heart is by buying him a pint... (hint).

The Albany serves real ale.

The services of the *Science-Fiction Foundation* have been offered to us by Malcolm Edwards who proposes to aid us in Programme matters. The real Bob Shaw has kindly agreed to deliver a serious and scientific discourse during the Convention.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Albacon is currently examining the possibility of closed-circuit TV coverage of all events. Representations have been made to various video contractors, and it now seems certain that we will be able to show all Main Convention Hall events on the fourth channel of the Hotel's piped TV system. To date it seems feasible to use two TV cameras, and to show film as well as live material throughout the Albany. Due to price and other constraints we are limited to black & white equipment.

Should anyone be interested in offering advice and/or assistance then please contact Bob Shaw. Consideration is being given to the possibility of taping certain items, and advice and aid is again solicited on this point.

A full guide to local eating establishments will be available at Albacon. The Hotel is conveniently situated to a number of take-away shops, and a short distance away from a large number of Chinese/Indian/etc establishments. A buffet snack service has been arranged with the Hotel for the period of the Convention, and Bar Lunches are available at moderate prices. The Hotel boasts The Carvery, where you may eat an unlimited amount for a flat price.

More general Information will appear in subsequent Progress Reports- if there is any point that you wish raised, or if you have any suggestion, query or problem then write to Bob Shaw, 2/L 244 West Princes Street, Kelvinbridge, Glasgow G4 9DP. enclosing an SAE

ITEMS FOR SALE FROM ALBACON

Various souvenir items will shortly be available from Albacon. These include Tee-shirt (Albacon logo and title on yellow cotton) and a number of badges. These have already proven very popular, and in addition we have produced a selection of badges relating to the BBC *Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. You may order the badges by post and the shirts will be available in November.

The badges say: (1) Hitch-hike to a Hugo (All badges are 2" dia.)
(2) Don't Panic!
(3) 6 x 9 does = 42
(4) Hitchercon 1- a convention at the end of time
(5) Glad to be of service!
(6) Albacon in 80 (with logo)

Each badge costs 25p, plus 15p P&P with each order. All cheques, POs etc should be payable to Albacon. All funds raised go to general use for Albacon.

ADVERTISING

Advertising both with and at Albacon is most welcome. In charge of our Advertising is our Treasurer, *Hal Rollason*. Write to him at: 3, Methven Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2AX. Brief details of our rates follow:


| | Professional | Fan | |
|-----------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Full Page | £20.00 | £15.00 | ALL COPY CAMERA READY |
| Half Page | £12.00 | £8.00 | ON A4 FORMAT PLEASE. |
| 1/4 Page | £8.00 | £5.00 | |

The above rates apply to Progress Reports only. Reduce total amount by £5.00 for serial insertions. Details of our souvenir Programme Book will be announced shortly. Albacon invites sponsors for certain events and Programme items to contact *Hal Rollason* with proposals.

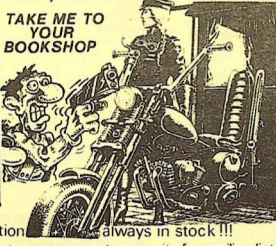
In *Progress Report 2* there will be news of the Fan Room; more on the Art Show; searing, incisive ~~live~~ reporting about the Hotel from Jim Barker; details from Rog Peyton on the Fancy Dress show... and as much else as we can cram in!

S.F. BOOKSHOP

40 WEST CROSSCAUSEWAY, EDINBURGH TEL 031667 0426



TAKE ME TO YOUR BOOKSHOP



over 2500 titles of science fiction always in stock!!!
also large range of comics, posters, games etc write for mailing list

Star Trek Action Group



STAG is an International STAR TREK club with approximately 700 members in Britain and throughout the world. Honorary members include *Gena Roddenberry, William Shatner, and De Forest Kelley*. The club issues 6 newsletters per year and also sells a wide range of Star Trek fanlines and photographs.

For info on STAG, general info sheets for Star Trek fans and free sample newsletter please send an SAE to:
Janet Quarton
15 Letter Baill
Cairnham
Lochgilphead
Argyll
Scotland

STAG representatives will attend
Edcon and will be pleased to
provide further information.